Note from the Editor

A substantial part of issue 18 of EASTM is again dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Yabuuti Kiyosi who died in June last year. Catherine Jami will introduce us to a number of papers which were delivered in Mexico City in a special memorial session for this great Japanese scholar held during the XXIst International Congress of History of Science (8-14 July, 2001). This session was organised by herself and Hashimoto Keizô. It included Prof. Hashimoto's obituary, which we have already published in the last issue. The four additional contributions comprise the accounts of Yano Michio on Yabuuti as a historian of exact sciences, of Qu Anjing on the influence of Yabuuti's work on Chinese historians of ancient Chinese mathematical astronomy, and of Tsukahara Togo on Yabuuti's excursions into the history of Korean and Japanese sciences and their role in his understanding and explanation of the history of Chinese science. In addition, Tôgô Toshihiro discusses, in the fourth contribution, the interesting aspect of Yabuuti's field-researches of traditional Japanese technology. Moreover, this issue includes a book review written by Alexeï Volkov on Catherine Jami's French translation of Yabuuti's *Chûgoku no sûgaku* (Mathematics in China). Finally, let me also mention that in one of the next issues we will present a complete bibliography of the works of Professor Yabuuti. This bibliography, which has been painstakingly compiled by Tôgô Toshihiro, will complete our appraisal of the life and work of this eminent historian of science. We trust that all this helps to make Yabuuti's contributions more widely known and to induce scholars to pay even more attention to his research by reading his work.[1]

Apart from a number of book reviews dealing with such subjects as the history of Chinese mathematics, medicine, and metallurgy, the history of Korean astronomy, and modern Chinese science and technology policies, the second major part of this issue contains two important articles, one on the history of Chinese metallurgy, the other on the changes and evolution of acu-moxa concepts in Tang and Song China. The first is by Donald B. Wagner, who presents his newest findings on the history of blast-furnaces in Song and Yuan China. This article deals with innovations in the design of blast furnaces, the wide-spread adoption of water power for creating the blast, and the use of coal and coke as fuel. It approaches this topic also from a comparative perspective by presenting details of early European blast furnace designs as well as those from the traditional Chinese iron industry of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In

[1] It may be mentioned that another great scholar in the history of East Asian science, namely, Nakayama Shigeru, paid homage to Yabuuti Kiyosi during the Ninth International Conference on the History of Science in China, City University of Hong Kong, October 9-12, 2001. He delivered a speech there about the "Yabuuti Paradigm in Chinese Science."

his usual solid and scholarly manner, the author presents us a full account not only of the textual evidence, but also of all those archaeological remains that throw light on these topics, underpinned by a full grasp of the respective metallurgical and chemical particularities involved. The questions discussed by Wagner are of importance for the history of Chinese technology, but touch also such areas as the supply conditions of fuel, deforestation, and the ever growing demand for both wrought-iron and cast-iron implements and objects, including agricultural tools, ordinary cooking pots, pans for salt boiling, and coins.

The second article is written by Asaf Goldschmidt, who traces changes in acu-moxa therapy during the transition from the Tang to the Song dynasties. By comparing the contents of six texts surviving from this period, the author attempts to examine changes in these manuscripts available to contemporary acu-moxa practitioners. "Acu-moxa therapy" is defined as a specific group of traditional Chinese clinical techniques designed to stimulate – mostly by acupuncture and moxibustion – specific loci on the human body in order to obtain the desired therapeutic effect. The author first provides us with a detailed analysis of the contents of the six different texts. Thereafter he especially highlights the differences between these texts in a topical way. The changes between the Tang and Sung texts referred to include not only the organisation of the acu-points and the extent of discussion regarding the circulation tracts, but also the differing degree of standardisation and the use of technical aids (like bronze models and illustrations). Moreover, the author demonstrates convincingly that basic anatomical knowledge began to play a more important role during the Song period. The Song texts were more systematically organised and better equipped with various methodological tools. In addition, they provided a much more substantial and elaborate presentation of classical medical doctrines. This was probably not only due to the spread of printing during the Song, but also to the active role played by the government in sponsoring the publication of medical texts.

As a preview, let me announce that the next number of EASTM will be a special issue on traditional Vietnamese military technology. C. Michele Thompson will act as our guest editor. The forays into this area will deal with Coa Loa, Thu'c Phan and the "magic" of early Vietnamese military technology (Marylinn Larew), with "flaming tigers" and "burning dragons" or important elements of early modern Vietnamese military technology (George Dutton), with the Vietnamese adaptation of foreign military technology (Nyuyen Thé Anh), and with Vietnamese traditional medicine and its role in nationalism and in the organisation and development of the Viet Minh medical corps (C. Michelle Thompson). This special issue, which will be ready in February 2002, will hopefully inaugurate a new era for EASTM and encourage the publication of other special issues in the near future. It is encouraging that during the XXIst International Congress of History of Science (Mexico City, 8-14 July, 2001) and the Ninth International Conference on the History of Science in China (City University of Hong Kong, October 9-12, 2001) a number of colleagues

expressed an interest, sometimes in quite strong terms, in taking responsibility for producing a special issue on a subject of their interest. We indeed look forward to these new collective contributions.

Again, I am much indebted to Jutta Rall-Niu, John P. C. Moffett and Michael Schön for their reliable help and great efforts in the production of the journal. It is really a tremendous experience, pleasure, and reward to carry out collaborative work in such a harmonious and productive way. My thanks naturally also go to the contributors to this issue, the members of the Local Advisory Board, Editorial Committee and ISHEASTM, as well as to all other colleagues who have responded cordially and patiently to our relentless requests and inquiries and who have supported us in one way or another. Unfortunately, in spite of all this great backing, we again did not succeed in producing this number of EASTM in a more timely way. This is mainly due to the fact that the problems to be solved in the interests of maintaining quality are often quite complex and time-consuming. Yet we hope that the contents of this and other forthcoming issues of EASTM will compensate the reader to a certain extent for their patience.

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